Formation of high power committee on Volcker Committee Report

4013. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power committee was formed some time back to look into the issues relating to Volcker Committee Report;

(b) if so, by when the report of the committee is likely to be submitted to Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay the findings of the said committee on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government had set up, vide Resolution dated 11th November, 2005, an Inquiry Authority named as 'Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority' in order to established the truth or otherwise of the unverified references relating to payment of surcharge connected with certain contracts mentioned in the Volcker Committee's Report.

(b) The Inquiry Authority was expected to complete its findings and submit its report to the Government within a time period of six months, unless extended by the Government. However, the Government has extended its term by three months beyond 10th May, 2006 to enable it to complete its findings and submit report.

(c) In terms of sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, which was also made applicable to the above said Inquiry Authority, the Government is required to lay before each House of Parliament, the report of the Inquiry Authority, together with a memorandum of the action taken thereon, within a period of six months of the submission of the report.

Use of bank deposits for speculative purposes

4014. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association, bank deposits are being cannibalised by mutual funds and other attractive instruments; and

(b) whether the present surge in sensex in due to speculative market trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Indian Banks' Association has informed that its Chief Executive has not made any comment on bank deposits being cannibalised by mutual funds and other attractive instruments.

(b) The movement of market indices are attributable to many factors, including, perception about the economy, and/or a sector or one or more index stocks, corporate performance, market sentiments and domestic and international events.

Participatory notes for encouraging FII flows

4015. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group on encouraging FII flows and checking the vulnerability of capital markets to speculative flows has recommended that Participatory Notes should be allowed.

(b) whether RBI representatives in the said group submitted a dissent note on this issue;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on allowing Participatory Notes so far; and

(d) if so, on what basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Expert Group has recommended that the current dispensation for Participatory Notes may continue.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Expert Group are being examined by the Government.